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Title: Need to create a new railway division under East Coast Railway Zone in Odisha.

SHRI MOHAN JENA (JAJPUR): The East-Coast Railway zone of Odisha is the smallest zone consisting of only three railway divisions. These are Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Waltair. It is a matter of concern that several mineral-rich areas, important cities and industrial centres of Odisha remain outside the jurisdiction of East-Coast Railways. For example, steel city of Rourkela, the industrial belt of Jharsuguda, Brajaraj Nagar, the mineral-rich areas of Bondhamunda and Baleswar all are under the South-Eastern Railway Zone. In addition to these, the proposed Dhamra-Bhadrakh, Rupsa-Baripada, Baripada-Bangriposi etc. are also under the purview of South-Eastern Railway. Though small in size, the East-Coast Railway last year had contributed around 8.5% of the total railway income during last year. Hence, a new division must be created under the East-Coast Railway Zone to cater to the needs of the area. This new division should be christened as Jajpur-Keonjhar Road Railway Division and should cover the areas from Cuttack to Lakshmannath Railway station including Paradeep-Haridaspur, Daitari-Banspani, Angul-Sukinda, Talchar-Bimlagarh, Jakhpura-Daitari and Dhamra-Bhadrakh ongoing railway projects. The Jajpur Road-Keonjhar area has emerged as one of the mega steel hubs of the Asian subcontinent. Hence paramount importance must be given to this demand and Central Government should take immediate step to create on a new Division under the East Coast Railway Zone bringing all the important area/rail/link of Odisha.